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PAKISTAN: Yahya Khan's plans



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NOTE

PAKISTAN: PRESIDENT YAHYA KHAN'S SUGGESTION THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US IN MAY OR JUNE 1971, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IMPLIES THAT HE MAY REMAIN IN POWER LONGER THAN PREVIOUSLY INDICATED. YAHYA HAS ALLOTTED THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, SCHEDULED TO BE ELECTED 7 DECEMBER, 120 DAYS TO DRAFT A CONSTITUTION, A TIME FRAME THAT WOULD TERMINATE ABOUT THE END OF APRIL. YAHYA MAY THINK THE ASSEMBLY WILL BE UNABLE TO AGREE ON A CONSTITUTION, IN WHICH CASE HE HAS SAID HE WOULD CALL FOR A NEW ASSEMBLY WHILE CONTINUING AS PRESIDENT. ALTERNATIVELY, HE MAY BELIEVE THAT IF THE ASSEMBLY DOES FORMULATE A SUITABLE CONSTITUTION, HE WILL BE CHOSEN PRESIDENT. IN ANY EVENT, YAHYA MADE NO SLIP IN SUGGESTING THE DATE, AS HE CAREFULLY COUNTED OFF THE MONTHS. [REDACTED]

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